

Claims

1. An apparatus for conveying objects, for instance fruits, comprising  
- a first endless conveyor with conveying elements such as diabolos connected  
thereto, while a conveying position is defined between at least two conveying  
elements, one of which downstream and the other upstream, viewed in the  
5 direction of travel of the conveyor, and

- a second endless conveyor, with product carriers connected thereto,  
comprising gripper hands, for transferring the objects from between the  
conveying elements, the second conveyor being provided in the direct proximity  
of the first conveyor

10 wherein,

at least in the surfaces supporting the objects at the moment of transfer by at  
least one single gripper hand, the conveying elements comprise grooves in a  
direction perpendicular to the conveyor, and  
said gripper hand has fingers,

15 while the distance between the fingers corresponds to the distance between the  
grooves of the conveying elements such that upon transfer of the objects by  
said gripper hand, the fingers are positioned at least partly under the objects  
in the groove ends of the grooves.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the conveying elements  
20 are diabolos with circumferential surfaces of which at least one half is provided  
with grooves, while the diabolos are further provided with guides for directing  
the diabolos while the guides are passed over a transfer guide and are  
positioned with said one half at the upper side.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the grooves  
25 substantially consist of groove ends which are in one line.

4. An apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein  
the product carrier for a single product or object consists of two gripper hands

which are moved from both sides from the groove ends inwards and, upon transfer, both support the product or object.

5. An apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the two conveyors are positioned in line, one above the other.

5 6. An apparatus according to at least claim 4, wherein the gripper hands are virtually of the same size.

7. An apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the gripper hands are connected to a weighing unit.

8. An apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein,  
10 further, an upward guide is provided with which at least virtually immediately after transfer of an objects by said gripper hand, this gripper hand is carried along upwards while this gripper hand and the transferred objects are positioned at at least a limited distance above the conveying elements.